

REMARKS

Response to Drawing objections:

Replacement figures 1-4 are provided herewith to designate these figures as Prior Art per the Examiner's finding.

Response to objection to Abstract:

The Abstract is amended herein per the Examiner's finding.

Response to Rejections Under Section 102:

Claims 15-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by O'Reilly et al. (USPN 5,743,657).

MPEP 2131 states "TO ANTICIPATE A CLAIM, THE REFERENCE MUST TEACH EVERY ELEMENT OF THE CLAIM."

Applicant's amended claim 15 recites in part:

a corresponding plurality of retaining pins ...respectively shaped such that, when in use, **a clearance in a plane transverse to the axes of the bearing assembly and the tilt pad between the retaining pin and the side face is lesser at a first location which lies substantially at the inner surface of the carrier, than at all corresponding locations at radially further inner portions of the side face**, with respect to the first location,
wherein **a contact point** between the retaining pin and the tilt pad when in use, **lies substantially at the inner surface of the outer carrier**, and whereby the tilt pad is accordingly able to tilt without being substantially displaced circumferentially about the outer carrier.

In contrast, O'Reilly et al. teaches a bearing arrangement that provides high bearing stiffness and along with retaining means to maintain pad alignment when a rotor is missing. Specifically, O'Reilly teaches a bearing having a plurality of **cylindrical retaining pins** that lie in cylindrical bores that operatively form a **line contact** along an axial portion of the retaining pins 40, 140 and 240 and the pad body (FIG's 1, 3 and 4 respectively) or point contact at the end of the pins away from the carrier, but not "...**a clearance [that] is lesser at a first location which lies substantially at the inner surface of the carrier, than at all corresponding**

locations at radially further inner portions of the side face, ...wherein a contact point ... lies substantially at the inner surface of the outer carrier..." as required by Applicant's claim 15.

Furthermore,

claim 16 requires the pin to have "**...a tapered cross-section...;**"

claim 18 requires "**...the cavity [to be] shaped to have a lesser dimension in a plane transverse to the axes of the bearing assembly...**"

claim 19 requires "**...the cavity [have] a tapered cross-section...**"

claim 23 requires "**...the retaining pin [to be] pyramidal in shape**"

claim 24 requires "**...the pyramid [to have] a square or rectangular base**" and

claim 26 requires "**...the retaining pin [to be] conical or truncated-conical in shape.**"

As discussed above, O'Reilly et al. teaches **cylindrical** retaining pins and bores, and not the Applicants claimed non-cylindrical shapes.

In view of the above, claim 15 is not anticipated by O'Reilly et al.. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-27 which depend on claim 15 are also patentable at least based on their dependence from claim 15 as well as based on their own merits. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102 rejections.

Response to Rejections Under Section 103:

Claims 16-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being obvious over O'Reilly et al.. MPEP 2143 requires in part "...that the prior art included each element claimed...." For at least the reasons discussed in connection with the Section 102 rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the Section 103 rejection.

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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the objections and rejections and timely pass the application to allowance.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including fees for additional claims and terminal disclaimer fee, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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